



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH
JANUARY 2005

WHEREAS, birth defects are the leading cause of infant deaths in North Dakota and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of infants is enhanced when expectant mothers are aware of the risk of birth defects, and the benefits of proper prenatal care and nutrition; and

WHEREAS, taking folic acid, a B-vitamin, each day before becoming pregnant and in the early weeks of pregnancy can reduce a woman's risk of giving birth to a child with birth defects; and

WHEREAS, monitoring birth defects helps identify ways of preventing future birth defects and of assuring that affected children receive necessary health care; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 2005, **BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State